

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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OES/APT/BMP FOR WALSH; INR/DDC

DEPT PASS TO NIH/FIC FOR DR. QUINN; NSF

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TBIO, JA
SUBJECT: GENETIC ENGINEERING

REF: TOKYO 6886

1. SCIENCE COUNCIL (GAKUJUTSU SHINGI KAI), ADVISORY BODY FOR MINISTER OF EDUCATION, HAS ESTABLISHED SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND SOCIETY TO STUDY IMPACT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ACTIVITIES ON MAN AND SOCIETY FROM BROAD VIEWPOINT AND RECOMMEND PROPER WAY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

2. MEMBERS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY PROF. JUNICHI AOMI AT UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO (PHILOSOPHY OF LAW) ARE:
PROF. KAKU WATANABE OF KEIO UNIVERSITY (MOLECULAR BIOLOGY),
DR. KOJI FUSHIMI, PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF OSAKA UNIVERSITY (PHYSICS), ASSOCIATE PROF. OSAMU HAMAI OF UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO (ETHICS), PROF. SHOZABURO KIMURA OF UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO (OCCIDENTAL HISTORY), PROF. SHOICHI WATABE OF JOCHI UNIVERSITY (LINGUISTICS), SAKYO KOMATSU (AUTHOR), AYAKO SONO (AUTHOR), PROF. YUICHI YAMAMURA OF OSAKA UNIVERSITY (INTERNAL MEDICINE), DR. YATARO TAJIMA,
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DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GENETICS (GENETICS), DR. TAKASHI SUGIMURA, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CANCER CENTER RESEARCH INSTITUTE, DR. JIRO SUGI, PROF. EMERITUS OF UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO AND DIRECTOR OF JAPAN SOCIETY FOR PROMOTION OF SCIENCE (AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING), PROF. HIDEO KAKIHANA OF TOKYO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (CHEMISTRY) PROF. SABURO ICHII OF SEIJI UNIVERSITY (LOGIC) AND

DR. SHIGERU NAKAYAMA, LECTURER AT UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO
(EARTH SCIENCES).

3. AT ITS FIRST MEETING JUNE 10, SPECIAL COMMITTEE
FOCUSSED ITS DELIBERATIONS ON GENETIC ENGINEERING AND
DECIDED TO FORM A SUBCOMMITTEE TO STUDY ALL PROBLEMS
INVOLVED IN RECOMBINANT DNA MOLECULAR RESEARCH. WHAT
THEY DISCUSSED AT THIS MEETING HAS NOT BEEN DISCLOSED.

4. COMMENT: MOVE DESCRIBED ABOVE IS TYPICAL OF RECENT
JAPANESE PROPENSITY TO ADDRESS SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL
PROBLEMS FROM INTERDISCIPLINARY VIEWPOINT. SIMILAR GROUPS
WERE RECENTLY ORGANIZED AT ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AND SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT
THESE AD HOC GROUPS ALL INCLUDE, IN ADDITION TO DISTINGUISHED
SCIENTISTS, MEN AND WOMEN OF TALENT WELL KNOWN TO
PUBLIC BY THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN JOURNALISTIC ACTIVITIES.
WHILE THERE IS NOTHING WRONG IN SUCH APPROACH,
PARTICULARLY WHEN THE IMPACT OF SCIENCE ON SOCIETY
IS STUDIED, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT MEANINGFUL
CONSENSUS CAN BE ACHIEVED BY SUCH A DEBATING CLUB.
MANSFIELD

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